

# Science in Service of Veterans

May 16 - 20, 2022  
VA Research Week

## Join us for Research Week at MEDVAMC!

Every year we look forward to VA Research Week as a time to highlight our exceptional researchers and the incredible work they do here at the MEDVAMC to improve the lives of Veterans.

### Monday, May 16th: Plenary Session

Attend [virtually via Zoom](#) ([meeting ID: 955 6924 1526, passcode: 282510](#)) or in person at Hilton Garden Inn Houston Medical Center.

11:00 am to  
11:10 am



#### WELCOME

**Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH**

Associate Chief of Staff for Research, MEDVAMC

11:10 am to  
11:15 am



#### LEADERSHIP ADDRESS

**Francisco Vazquez, MBA**

Medical Center Director, MEDVAMC

11:15 am to  
11:45 am



#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Wendy Tenhula, PhD**

Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

11:50 am to  
12:05 pm



#### GUEST SPEAKER

**Mary Dickinson, PhD**

Senior Vice President and Dean of Research, Baylor College of Medicine

12:10 pm to  
12:25 pm



#### GUEST SPEAKER

**Andrew Chou, MD**

Associate Chief, Infection Prevention and Control, MEDVAMC; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

12:25 pm to  
12:30 pm



#### CLOSING REMARKS

**Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH**

Associate Chief of Staff for Research, MEDVAMC



**Scan the QR code to join  
the Plenary Session!**

## Wednesday, May 18th: Veteran Engagement Panel

Attend **virtually via Zoom** ([meeting ID: 915 5983 8831, passcode: 704812](#)) or in person at Hilton Garden Inn Houston Medical Center.

**Drew Helmer, MD, Vlad Sandulache, MD, PhD, and Christopher Verrico, PhD**, will host a Veteran Engagement Panel to discuss the Veteran, Clinician, and Researcher's perspectives on research at MEDVAMC.

A survey was conducted in the VA clinics asking Veterans which research topics they are interested in, why they want to participate, how they would like to learn about research opportunities at this VA. The survey data will be used to prime the discussion.

Moderated by **Juan Carlos Ramirez, MS**.



**Scan the QR code to join the  
Veteran Engagement Panel!**

11:00 am to 11:05 am **OPENING REMARKS**  
**Mr. Juan-Carlos Ramirez**

11:05 am to 11:25 am **MILITARY EXPOSURES: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**  
**Dr. Drew Helmer**  
Deputy Director, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQeSt), MEDVAMC

**Ray Love, MD**  
Physician Lead, OEF/OIF Clinic, MEDVAMC

11:25 am to 11:50 am **VETERAN CANCER CARE & PRECISION ONCOLOGY**  
**Dr. Vlad Sandulache**  
Chief, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Section, MEDVAMC

12:00 pm to 12:25 pm **MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE**  
**Dr. Christopher Verrico**  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Baylor College of Medicine

12:25 pm to 1:00 pm **AUDIENCE Q&A**  
**Open Discussion**

## Friday, May 20th: VA Research Week Symposium

Held **virtually** only on Friday, May 20th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Registration required to attend.

In observance of National VA Research Week, **VA's Office of Research and Development** is hosting a symposium to highlight the work of **four groundbreaking VA investigators**.

Each has been **recognized for outstanding research** that has advanced knowledge in their fields and improved the lives of Veterans and others.

**Dr. Leigh Hochberg**, VA Providence Health Care System

**Dr. Louis Dell'Italia**, Birmingham VA Health Care System

**Dr. Donna Washington**, Greater Los Angeles Health Care System

**Dr. Robert Bonomo**, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center



**Scan the QR code to *register* for  
the Research Symposium!**